

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908

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PLEASE PASS TO COMMERCE FOR OFFICE OF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR POLICY (ABBUHL)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EIND, FR

SUBJECT: BIODATA: (ESPER, PHILIPPE)

REF: PARIS 324L0

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ESPER WILL ACCOMPANY HIS
DIRECTOR GENERAL, HUGUES DE L'ESTOILE, ON OFFICIAL
VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN WEEK OF DECEMBER 6 FOR TALKS
WITH COMMERCE AND OTHER AGENCIES.

2. PHILIPPE ESPER WAS NOMINATED ON OCTOBER 20, 1976
AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDUSTRY IN FRENCH
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH (MOIR). HE ALSO
CONTINUES TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS SERVICE IN MOIR AND AS HEAD OF INTERMINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE ON COLOR TV (WHOSE MAIN FUNCTION IS TO
PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION OF FRENCH SECAM SYSTEM).
ESPER'S PERSONAL TITLE IN FRENCH CIVIL SERVICE IS
ARMAMENT ENGINEER.

3. BORN AT TOULON ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1941, ESPER
RECEIVED FIRST CLASS HIGHER EDUCATION IN BOTH
ENGINEERING AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE HAS SERVED AS
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TECHNICAL COUNSELOR TO MINISTERIAL ARMAMENTS

DELEGATION (1967-70), ADVISOR TO DEFENSE MINISTER
DEBRE (1970-73), DEPUTY TO DIRECTOR FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (DE L'ESTOILE) IN ARMAMENTS
DELEGATION (1973-76). HE HAS BEEN AT MOIR WITH
DE L'ESTOILE SINCE JUNE 21, 1976.

4. ESPER IS SLIM, SCHOLARLY, AND ELEGANT IN
APPEARANCE, COOL AND ARTICULAR IN NEGOTIATION. HIS
ENGLISH IS AT ROUGHLY THE S-4 LEVEL. HIS
SUBORDINATES TELL US THAT HE IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD
THE US, AND HE HAS MADE AT LEAST ONE RECENT VISIT
THERE THAT WE KNOW OF, WHEN HE CALLED ON ACDA
DIRECTOR IKLE TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND
THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER FRANCO/AMERICAN
COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INTERCHANGE.
ESPER APPEARS TO ENJOY THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE OF
BOTH HIS SUPERIORS AND HIS SUBORDINATES.

5. ESPER IS CLEARLY A HARD-DRIVING, AMBITIOUS
OFFICIAL WHO IS RIDING DE L'ESTOILE'S COATTAILS AT
THIS STAGE OF HIS CAREER BUT MAY EVENTUALLY SURPASS
HIM. HE WAS MARRIED IN 1966 TO THE FORMER CLAUDINE
BERGOIGNAN (AN ATTORNEY) AND HAS ONE CHILD.
RUSH

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